

1.0 INTRODUCTION

This Vegetation Management Plan has been crafted for Sand Point Magnuson Park, to address a multifaceted need to clarify the intent, methods, and means for managing its diverse landscapes and related uses. Sand Point Magnuson Park represents many things to its many users and neighbors. It is a place for a daily energetic run or a quiet reflective walk; a broad, sweeping expanse of open space along the shorelines of Lake Washington; a place for active sports and recreation; a pastoral viewshed; a setting for picnics, swimming, birding, kite-flying, wind surfing, boat launching, and biking; a venue for myriad cultural, educational, and social gatherings; a sanctuary and a refuge. Sand Point Magnuson is one of Seattle's destination parks, a place as often used by visitors arriving from across the city as by neighbors who simply walk through the front gates. Park use and management are of passionate interest to many who come to the Park, and to those who live nearby. Their interests are as diverse as the landscape of the Park itself.

This plan reflects years of Citywide policies relating to parks and open space within the City of Seattle. It also incorporates the intent of legal documents, which formed the foundation for transfer of Naval Station Puget Sound property from the federal government to local public ownership and care by Seattle Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) and the University of Washington. In addition, this plan attempts to incorporate some of the disparate perspectives of neighbors and citizens who consider the Park "theirs": those who have lived adjacent to the landscape since it served as an airport, those who worked tirelessly to assure that the site would be protected in some manner and restored to natural conditions, those who seek a balance between 'views' and 'habitat', those who caution about the need to protect endangered species and other wildlife, assorted recreational users whose voices were not heard at public meetings.

The core focus of this plan is vegetation management for the Park. The document starts with an overview of Citywide and Sand Point Magnuson Park-specific guiding plans and policies, plus the issues identified through public meetings on the Plan. Those sources form the backbone of this Vegetation Management Plan. Within the Park, ten discrete Landscape Zones are then identified, according to vegetation types, patterns of use, and prominent geographic distinctions. Within each Landscape Zone, distinct Management Areas are identified. These delineate specific areas where particular, regular maintenance activities are needed to restore, maintain and/or nurture the targeted vegetation communities. The Vegetation Management Plan (VMP) includes a seasonal schedule for each individual Management Area within the ten Park Landscape Zones.

The VMP provides clear direction regarding what should be done, where it should be done, and when it should be done. A section on Management and Maintenance practices details how to perform the work prescribed for each management area, to maintain, restore and control vegetation within the Park. The Implementation Section describes who should do particular types of work in the Park, differentiating activities which are expected - or best performed by - City professional staff from those which present opportunities for citizen stewardship, volunteer and/or corporate involvement, in coordination of Park staff. The final Monitoring Section provides measurable means to determine if the goals and objectives for the VMP are being met.